



# **Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agents (GBCAs) and the NSF Risk: Regulatory Update**

**Ira Krefting, MD**  
**January 21, 2011**

# Presentation Outline

- **Introduction to Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agents (GBCAs)**
- **Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF)**
- **2007 Initial Regulatory Response**
- **2009 Advisory Committee**
- **2010 Labeling Changes**
- **Consideration of a New GBCA**

# **GBCA Background**

- **GBCAs improve diagnostic capabilities of MRI**
- **Mechanism – paramagnetic properties of Gadolinium**
- **Neuro imaging and organ systems**
- **Most have renal excretion – prolonged in renal failure**

# FDA-approved GBCAs

GBCA	Approval Date	Indication	Chemical Structure, Charge
<b>Magnevist</b> (Gadopentate)	1988	CNS/ body	Chain, ionic
<b>Prohance</b> (Gadoteridol)	1992	CNS	Macrocyclic
<b>Omniscan</b> (Gadodiamide)	1993	CNS/ body	Chain, non ionic
<b>Optimark</b> (Gadoversetamide)	1993	CNS/ liver	Chain, non ionic
<b>Multihance</b> (Gadobenate)	2004	CNS	Chain, ionic
<b>Eovist</b> (Gadoxetate)	2008	Liver	Chain, ionic
<b>Ablavar</b> (Gadofosveset)	2008	MRA Aortoiliac	Chain, ionic

# **Adverse Events (AEs) with GBCAs**

- **Overall incidence of AEs <3%**
- **Most common AEs: headache, nausea, emesis, injection site reactions**
- **True anaphylactoid reactions and serious AEs are rare but are reported for each GBCA**
- **Cautious use with h/o asthma, allergies**

# **Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF)**

- **1997-2001: described among patients with renal failure**
- **2006: associated with GBCA**
- **Scleroderma like but spares face and lacks serological markers**
- **Potentially lethal – respiratory failure**
- **No known treatment or cure**
- **Many skin lesions – mimic NSF**

# Scope of Renal Insufficiency

US Renal Data Service 2008

Stage	Description	GFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Population
1	normal	≥90	~20 million
2	mild	60-90	
3	moderate	30-59	7.5 million
4	severe	15-29	400,000
5	renal replacement	<15	300,000

## **2007 Safety Labeling Change – Minimize the Risk!**

- **Class labeling – risk with all GBCAs**
- **Available data did not allow for determination of differential risk (200 reports)**
- **Boxed warning – about use in:**
  - **Acute/chronic severe renal failure**
  - **Acute renal failure + liver ailments**
- **Post-marketing – Omniscan, Optimark, Magnevist – most reports**



# 2007 Warning Section

- Postmarketing reports have identified the development of NSF following single and multiple administrations of gadolinium-based contrast agents.
- These reports have not always identified a specific agent.
- **Where a specific agent was identified, the most commonly reported agent was gadodiamide (Omniscan™), followed by gadopentetate dimeglumine (Magnevist®) and gadoversetamide (OptiMARK®).**

## **2007 – 2009 Advances in NSF Understanding**

- **Stability constants - laboratory investigations of GBCA physicochemical properties – release of free Gadolinium**
- **NSF animal model attempted**
- **GBCA clinical usage data**
- **Accumulated post marketing reports**

## **2007 – 2009 New Data: Pre-Clinical**

- **Transmetallation theory:**
  - Liberation of free gadolinium → NSF
  - Low constants: GBCAs tend to liberate
  - High constants: tend to retain
- **Gadolinium deposition in experimental animals with GBCAs that liberate Gadolinium**
- **Gadolinium triggers an immunologic cascade leading to fibrosis**

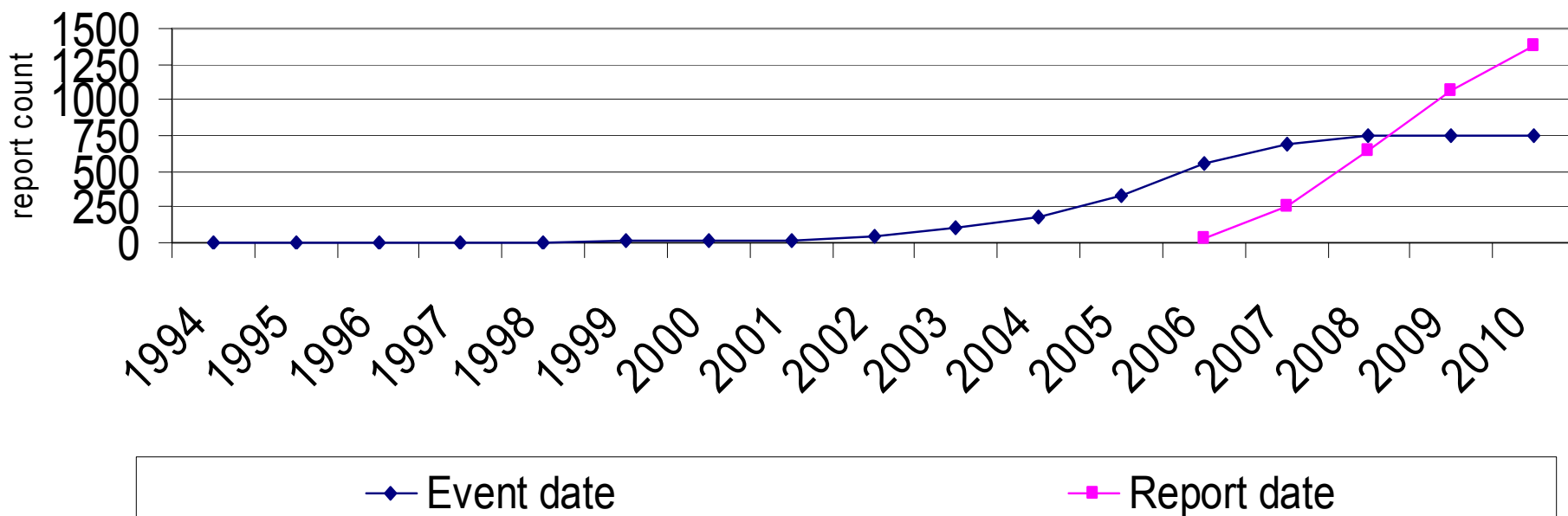
## 2007-09 New Data: Clinical

- Postmarketing data reported to FDA
  - Many reports (>1200), but...
    - ❖ No event date
    - ❖ Specific GBCA not listed
    - ❖ *Confounded (multiple GBCAs)*
- Coincident decrease in new NSF cases with screening and avoidance of high risk GBCAs

# AERS Reports

Cumulative, domestic reports of NSF in association with GBCAs for all reports to date (n=1,381) and the subset with event date (n=786).

AERS database: April 2010.



# AERS NSF Reports (2009)

GBCA	Domestic Single-agent NSF Reports in AERS
<b>Omniscan</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Magnevist</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Optimark</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Prohance</b>	<b>0</b> <b>(1 Foreign Report)</b>
<b>Multihance</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Eovist</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Ablavar</b>	<b>0</b>

# 2009 Advisory Committee

- Differential NSF risk exists
- Risk is consistent with data from multiple sources & transmetallation theory
- **Higher Risk** → Contraindicated: Omniscan, Optimark & (Magnevist) in severe renal failure/ acute kidney injury
- **Lower Risk** → Warning: Multihance, Prohance, Ablavar & Eovist

# Setting the NSF Safety Stage

- **Consider the chemical structure**
- **Consider the limitations of the physico-chemical measures such as the various stability constants**
- **Consider the details of the NSF reports**
- **Consider which NSF risk category is appropriate**





# **Back Up Slide**

# 2010 Label – Higher Risk GBCA

## NSF:

**Gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) increase the risk for NSF among patients with impaired elimination of the drugs. Avoid use of GBCAs in these patients unless the diagnostic information is essential and not available with non-contrasted MRI or other modalities.**

- **Do not administer OMNISCAN to patients with:**
  - **chronic, severe kidney disease (GFR < 30 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>), or**
  - **acute kidney injury (4).**
- **Screen patients for acute kidney injury and other conditions that may reduce renal function. For patients at risk for chronically reduced renal function (e.g., age > 60 years, hypertension or diabetes), estimate the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) through laboratory testing (5.2).**

# **Gadobutrol Injection**

## **Efficacy, Safety, NSF**

Barbara Stinson, DO  
Medical Officer  
Division of Medical Imaging Products  
Office of New Drugs  
FDA/CDER  
Gadobutrol AC, January 21, 2011

# 5 Marketed GBCAs With CNS Indication

Trade Name	Molar Strength	Dose (mmol/kg)	
		Adults	Pediatric
Magnevist	0.5	0.1	0.1
Prohance	0.5	0.1 (optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 0.2)	0.1
Omniscan	0.5	0.1	0.1 (0.05 kidney)
Optimark	0.5	0.1	N/A
Multihance	0.5	0.1	0.1
Gadovist	1.0	0.1	0.1

- Same dose
- 2x molar strength



**$\frac{1}{2}$  the volume for Gadovist**

# Unique Gadobutrol Molar Strength Poses Risk for Overdosage

- Same dose
- 2x molar strength



$\frac{1}{2}$  the  
volume for  
Gadobutrol

Potential  
for  
Gadobutrol  
overdosage

## Today's AC

- **Phase 3 data appear to support efficacy claim.**

### **FOCUS:**

- **Gadobutrol's NSF risk in the context of recent NSF class labeling changes**
- **Implications of the potential for Gadobutrol overdosage on its NSF risk**

# Discussion Topics

- 1. Are data supportive of Gadobutrol approval?**
- 2. Can FDA classify Gadobutrol as a GBCA with “lower” risk for NSF?**
- 3. Discuss how to minimize risk for Gadobutrol medication errors that may lead to overdosage.**

# Outline

- **Proposed indication and Phase 3 efficacy summary**
- **Safety summary**
- **Proposed methods to minimize risk of overdosage (and thus NSF risk)**



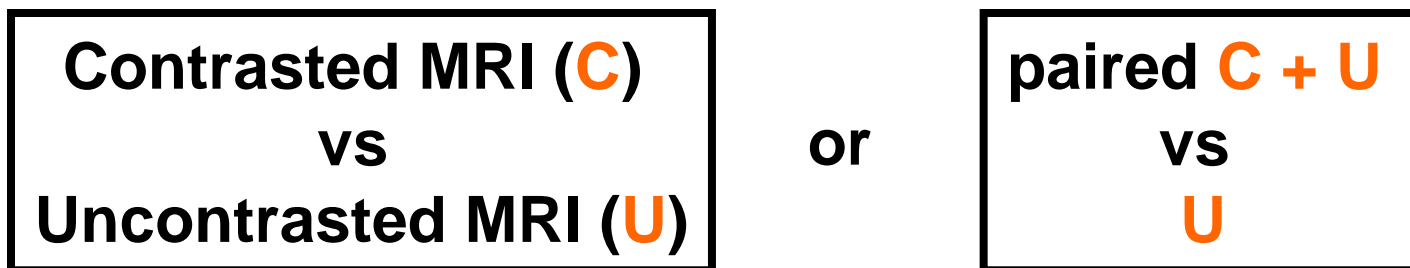
# Proposed Gadobutrol Indication

- intravenous use in diagnostic MRI
- to detect and visualize areas with disrupted blood brain barrier and/or abnormal vascularity (CNS)

**Intended population: Adults and children  $\geq 2$  years with known or suspected CNS disease.**

## 5 GBCAs With CNS Indication -- Phase 3 Study Designs --

- Assessed structure “visualization” using blinded readers



- Gadobutrol: compared **C + U** vs **U** for detection, localization, and depiction of *intrinsic properties* of CNS lesions

# Gadobutrol Phase 3 Studies

## STUDY 123

402 patients,  $\text{GFR} \geq 60$ ,  
suspected CNS abnormality

RAND ~1:1

U,C (Prohance)  
then  
U,C (Gadovist)

$\geq 24\text{h}$

U,C (Gadovist)  
then  
U,C (Prohance)

Images read  
(3 blinded readers)

380 completed study  
336 analyzed

## STUDY 124

343 patients,  $\text{GFR} \geq 30$ ,  
suspected CNS abnormality

U,C (Gadovist)

Images read  
(3 blinded readers)

336 completed study  
321 analyzed

# Primary Endpoints Analyses

## -- Study 123, 124 --

Compared “paired” (U + C) to U for:

- Contrast enhancement
- Border delineation
- Internal morphology

*Average across readers,  
Paired t-test, 1-sided 0.025 CI*  
(superiority)

- Number of lesions

*Average across readers,  
Noninferiority margin 0.35*  
(noninferiority)

# Primary Endpoint Visualization Scores

## -- Study 123/124 --

Score	Efficacy Variables		
	Contrast Enhancement	Border Delineation	Internal Morphology
1	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Poorly visible</i>
2	<i>Weak</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Moderately visible</i>
3	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear but incomplete</i>	<i>Sufficiently visible</i>
4	<i>Clear and bright</i>	<i>Clear and complete</i>	<i>N/A</i>

# Primary Endpoint Results

Variable	123			124		
	C + U	U	$\Delta$	C + U	U	$\Delta$
Contrast enhancement	2.26	0.97	1.29 (p<0.001)	2.86	0.93	1.94 (p<0.001)
Border delineation	2.58	1.98	0.60 (p<0.001)	2.94	1.92	1.02 (p<0.001)
Internal morphology	2.58	1.98	0.60 (p<0.001)	2.35	1.57	0.78 (p<0.001)
Avg # lesions detected	8.25	8.08	0.17 *	2.97	2.65	0.32

\* Did not meet noninferiority margin of -0.35

# Outline

- **Proposed indication and Phase 3 efficacy summary**
- **Safety summary**
- **Proposed methods to minimize risk of overdose (and thus NSF risk)**

# Sources of Safety Data

- **39 Phase 2-4 studies** (4549 subjects)
  - Adults (n = 4411), pediatrics (n = 138)
  - Phase 1: 313 healthy volunteers
  - n = 2434 at 0.1 mmol/kg or more
- **Global pharmacovigilance**
- **NSF** data



# Safety Data

## -- Phase 2-4 Trials --

- Misadministrations (phase 3 trials): 7 / 716
  - Double dose
  - Resolved with reminder in newsletter
- 17 SAEs (17 / 4549 ~ 0.4%)
- Most SAEs attributed to underlying clinical condition and reflect a CNS process
- Investigators considered 1 SAE related to **gadobutrol**, (crystalluria in pediatric patient)

# Most Frequent Adverse Events

-- **Phase 2-4 Trials** --

Reaction	Rate (%), n = 4549
Headache	1.5
Nausea	1.2
Injection Site Reaction	0.6
Dysguesia	0.5
Feeling Hot	0.5
Dizziness	0.4
Vomiting	0.4
Rash	0.3
Pruritis	0.2
Erythema	0.2
Dyspnea	0.2
Paresthesia	0.1

# Global Pharmacovigilance

- **15 deaths since 1998**
  - 8 anaphylaxis / anaphylactoid shock
- **AE case reports (thru Sept 2010): 1175; 317 SAEs**
- **“Overdose” reports: 3**
- **Anaphylaxis reported: <1/1000**

**NSF**

# Gadobutrol **NSF** Reports

<b>Single-agent</b> case reports (Unconfounded), + NSF	2
<b>Single-agent</b> case reports (Unconfounded), Not Assessable	2
<u>Confounded</u> case reports (subject received >1 GBCA)	6

# Global **NSF** Reports, Launch to Feb 2009

GBCA	# NSF reports		# Administrations (millions)
	Single-agent	Confounded	
Omniscan	438	90	47
Optimark	7	11	0.8
Magnevist	135	276	95
MultiHance	0	8	6
Primovist*	0	0	0.15
Vasovist**	0	0	0.05
<b>Gadovist***</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6.0 (Oct. 2010)</b>
ProHance	1	13	12.3
Dotarem***	1	11	22.4

linear non-ionic  
 linear ionic,  
  macrocyclic

\* Primovist is Eovist in the U.S.

\*\* Vasovist is Ablavar in the U.S.

\*\*\* not marketed in U.S.

EMA/740640/2010

# Global Single-agent **NSF** Reports, -- GBCAs Marketed in U.S. --

GBCA	# Single-agent reports	# Administrations (millions) - global	# Administrations (millions) – U.S.
Omniscan	505	> 49	> 25
Optimark	35	> 3.5	> 2.5
Magnevist	179	> 105	> 50
Multihance	2	> 7.5	> 2.5
Eovist	0	< 0.4	< 0.05
Ablavar	0	< 0.1	0
Prohance*	2	> 15	> 7

 contraindicated in hi-risk patients

Source: Dec 2009 AC sponsors' briefing documents

\* macrocyclic

# Single-agent **NSF** Case Reports (1 of 2)

## -- Gadobutrol --

- **200828599GPV**
  - 68 y.o. M, terminal renal failure, hemodialysis since 2001
  - 61 kg
  - 2005 Apr: 30 ml Gadobutrol (MRA)
  - 2006 Summer: contractures and fibrotic changes of extremities; biopsy inconsistent with NSF
  - 2007 Jun: 10 ml Gadobutrol
  - 2007 Aug: **skin biopsy → + NSF**
  - Bayer: NSF “not excluded”
  - Cowper Score 4, 2: consistent with NSF



# Single-agent **NSF** Case Reports (2 of 2)

## -- Gadobutrol --

- **200923701GPV**
  - 60 y.o. M, chronic renal insufficiency since 2003
  - 90 kg
  - 2008 Jun:
    - 17.5 ml Gadobutrol (MRA)
    - skin rash, musculoskeletal pain, thickened skin on legs
    - **skin biopsy → acute NSF**
  - 2009 Mar: **skin biopsy → chronic NSF**
  - **Bayer: NSF “not excluded”**
  - **Cowper Score 3, 4: consistent with NSF**

# **NSF**: Submitted Data Support Gadobutrol as a “Lower” Risk Agent

- **Clinical data:**
  - 2 single agent cases in ~6 million administrations
- **Animal studies:**
  - **macrocyclic** agents less likely to produce NSF-like skin lesions in **nephrectomized rats**
- **Physico-chemical properties:**
  - **macrocyclic** (high stability, no measurable  $\text{Gd}^{+3}$  release)

# Sponsor's Proposed Risk Management Plan

- **Labeling:** Detailed dosing chart in the package insert
- **Conspicuous packaging:** Display higher concentration on packaging materials
- **Communication plans:** Make providers aware of key dosing and safety information
- **Educational initiatives:** Stringent training of the field force, web-based programs, and interval feedback

# Preliminary Conclusions

- The clinical **efficacy analyses** and postmarketing data appear to support gadobutrol approval.
- The applicant's proposal to label gadobutrol as a "**lower risk**" GBCA is supported by the submitted data.
- The team acknowledges a need to address ways to minimize the risk for gadobutrol **medication error** and possible overdose.

# THANK YOU